

Marine Region Program Descriptions and Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives

Program: Marine Habitat Conservation

The Marine Habitat Conservation program focuses on the planning, review, and implementation of activities that may impact marine habitats and projects directed at ecosystem based management activities. The program specifically focuses on the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA, Stats. 1999, Ch. 1015) and ongoing marine protected area (MPA) management. The program also oversees the review of environmental impact reports (EIR) and proposals for projects that may impact the marine environment.

Project: Marine Protected Areas

The Marine Protected Areas project includes staff directed towards evaluating, reviewing and developing recommendations for MPAs within State waters. The project has the primary responsibility for planning phases of the MLPA implementation in various study regions. Additionally, the project will assist with implementation of new MPAs in completed study regions and the ongoing review of monitoring data to determine MPA effectiveness and to make recommendations on potential management changes.

Budgeted Resources Dedicated to the Project: This project includes six positions and a Personal Services budget of \$419,263. An additional four positions and \$309,421 in Personal Services dollars are dedicated to MPAs but are located within the Marine Region Management Program. In addition, one position was dedicated to communications focusing on MPA issues.

Planned Work Products for FY 2006-07: In FY 2006-07, the MPAs project will focus its efforts on preparing for and conducting the stakeholder process to plan for MPAs in the second study region. Staff will assist with implementation of any new MPAs adopted for the first study region in the central California coast.

- Staff will support the regulatory and environmental review processes for the central coast study region.
- Staff will complete monitoring and management plans for the central coast study region.
- Staff will prepare geographical information system (GIS) data layers to provide information necessary to the second study region planning process.
- Staff will participate in and assist with convening a stakeholder working group and science advisory team for the second study region.

- Staff will prepare information for, plan, and conduct stakeholder and science team meetings to provide input on potential improvements to existing MPAs in the second study region.
- Staff will coordinate with external staff and contractors to effectively use outside funding and support.
- Staff will participate in training for conducting extracts and analyses of commercial and recreational fishing data, public involvement and conflict resolution, and technical and scientific writing.

Planned Work Products for FY 2007-08: In FY 2007-08 the project will shift its focus to both implementation of MPAs in the Central Coast study region, completion of the planning process and beginning the regulatory process for the second study region, and preparing for the third study region.

- Staff will coordinate implementation of monitoring and management plans for the Central Coast study region.
- Staff will prepare regulatory and environmental review documents as directed by the Commission for the second study region.
- Staff will prepare geographical information system (GIS) data layers to provide information necessary to the third study region planning process.
- Staff will participate in and assist with convening a stakeholder working group and science advisory team for the third study region.
- Staff will prepare information for and undertake preliminary planning for stakeholder and science team meetings to provide input on potential improvements to existing MPAs in the third study region.
- Staff will coordinate with external staff and contractors to effectively use outside funding and support.